REPORT TO THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

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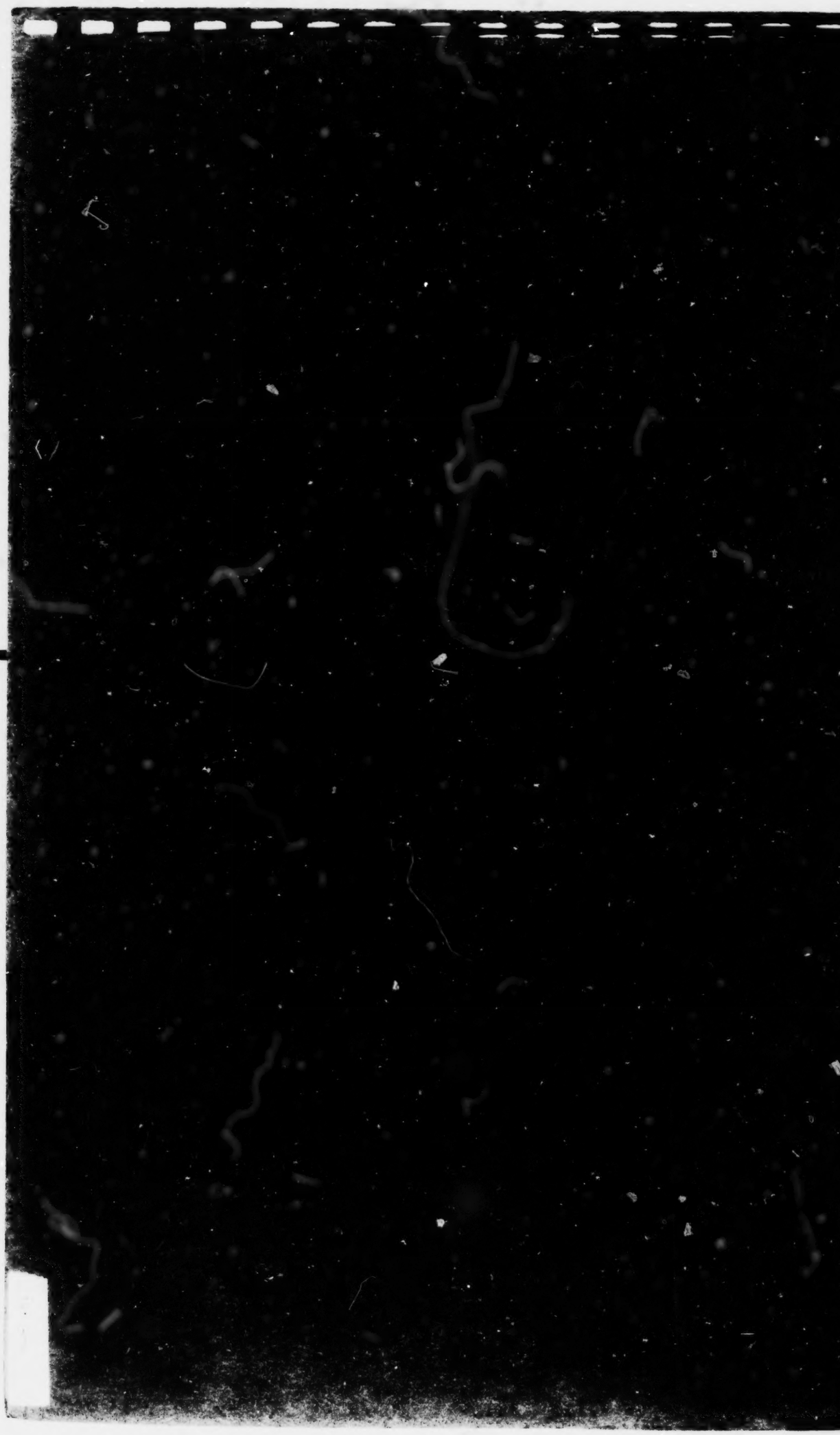
Province of Nova Scotia
Canada



Introduction

For a number of years, with the encouragement of the Department of Municipal Affairs, a consolidated response to all resolutions passed by Annual Conferences of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has been prepared. These consolidations are, in effect, a report to succeeding Conferences of the manner in which the Province of Nova Scotia has replied to or acted upon matters of concern taken to the various Departments of Government at the direction of the general membership of the Union.

A review and assessment of the material contained on the following pages will identify for the reader the response of the Province to those matters felt to be important to municipal government. While replies from the various Ministers are carried in our monthly newsletter as received, the consolidation is nevertheless an invaluable reference piece for delegates to an Annual Conference on many of the previous year's activities and as an ongoing record of the Union's accomplishments and effectiveness in dealing with the Government of the Province.

Our sincere thanks to Ms. Pat Jardine of the Department of Municipal Affairs for her continuing support and assistance as evidenced in the preparation of the very professional document which follows.

J. Herman Fowler

Executive Director
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

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Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
SECTION 1	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY SESSIONS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNION		
PART A	RESOLUTIONS RE DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL		
1	Cost of Justice "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Provincial Government to take over the complete control, operation, and costs of justice in the Province, from the municipal units (exclusive of municipal police forces) including but not limited to Registry and Probate offices, Court Houses, jails, and correctional centres; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be urged to expand and improve such facilities, so that they are adequate to meet the needs of the Province." This is a composite resolution embodying Resolutions 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67.	Resolutions Committee	The Province has agreed in principle to assuming the operation of correctional centres and county jails. The Department is in the process of discussing provincial proposals with the municipalities and will be making a report and recommendation to Cabinet at the earliest possible date on the responses to our proposals. The other costs of justice have traditionally been borne by municipal governments and the Province would not be prepared to take over these costs until such time as there is a complete review of municipal/provincial fiscal relations.
2	Fines Under Criminal Code and Narcotics Control Act "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Attorney General's Department to enact legislation so that such fines (for prosecution of offenders under the Criminal Code of Canada and the Narcotics Control Act) would accrue to the municipal unit providing the service.	Valley Regional Meeting	Section 651(2) of the Criminal Code states that the Narcotic Control Act fines go to the federal government. While Section 651(3) of the Criminal Code allows the Lieutenant Governor to turn Criminal Code fines over to the municipality, the present financial restraint situation would prohibit the Province from doing this. This matter would have to be considered in an overall review of municipal/provincial fiscal relations.

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3	Costs of Police Forces "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities make representation to the Attorney General of Nova Scotia requesting the Province of Nova Scotia to provide financial assistance for the operation of local police forces."	South Shore Regional - Mahone Bay	The Municipal Grants Act takes police protection into consideration when the standard expenditure per dwelling unit is developed for each class of municipality. However, the operating grant is unconditional and council is not required to spend the grant for any particular purpose. This decision is left to council; based on their priorities.
4	Serving of Legal Processes "BE IT RESOLVED that this serving of such legal process (originating from certain Provincial Courts) in towns be assumed by the Sheriff's Office in each of the respective jurisdictions."	Cumberland Regional - Town of Amherst	The Department would not be prepared to have the serving of legal processes in Towns assumed by the Sherriff's Office. In fact, the serving of legal process by police officers is a normal police function.
5	Police Act - Costs of Appeal "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Attorney General to include a section in the Regulations (of the Nova Scotia Police Act) to permit the Appeal Board to assess costs."	Cumberland Regional - Town of Springhill	The Commission to review the Police Act and Regulations recommended that the Police Review Board have the power to award costs where appropriate and this will be dealt with in the amendments to the Police Act when they are introduced.
6	Legal Aid and Protection For Police Officers "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Attorney-General's Department to assume such legal costs where insurance coverage cannot be acquired to protect the municipal unit. (in the case where a police officer is charged with a criminal offence, regardless of whether he is acquitted).	Valley Regional	"The Department would not be prepared to assume such legal costs where insurance coverage could not be acquired because the present fiscal restraints would prohibit us from so doing."

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7	Provincial Per Diem Grants - LCA "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities be requested to urge the Provincial Government to investigate this matter (that per diem rates of LCA offenders have not been adjusted upwards) and adequately amend the per diem grant rates."	Valley Regional	This is not properly a matter for this Department as Section 163 of the Liquor Control Act prescribes a payment of $4.00 per day. It would appear that this would eventually be abolished.
8	Provision of Breathalizer Units "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Department of Attorney General to provide a breathalizer unit to all municipal police forces, or allocate a portion of Criminal Code fines to the municipalities, to cover the cost of purchase and operation of a breathalizer."	Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough Region	The Honourable Harry W. How replied: "While I am sympathetic to this request, this is not a matter which can be considered at this time given the present fiscal restraint program."
9	Control of Outdoor Entertainment "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Attorney General be requested by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to enact legislation and establish guidelines under which such outdoor entertainments (such as outdoor music festivals and concerts) could be held in a manner satisfactory to potential supporters and the general public."	Municipality of the County of Colchester	This is a matter which has been dealt with by the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Theatres and Amusement Act. The Attorney General stated that while he was concerned with the problem created by such events, this is a matter that should be dealt with in conjunction with the Department of Consumer Affairs if the present provisions do not prove adequate.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
10	Stores and Places of Entertainment on Good Friday "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities go on record as requesting the Province of Nova Scotia to provide legislation which would prevent the opening of retail stores and places of entertainment on Good Friday, with the only exception being essential services."	South-West Regional - Town of Yarmouth	The Attorney General, Honourable Harry How, states that: "While the Province has enacted legislation in respect to the Lord's Day and Remembrance Day, I feel that the Province should refrain from legislating in regard to specific religious holidays."
PART B	**RESOLUTIONS RE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**		
11	Maintenance of Through Streets "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities strongly urge the Department of Transportation to correct this unbalanced situation (paying 50% of cost or maintenance of "through streets" in urban municipal units) by assuming 100% of such maintenance costs." The Resolutions Committee recommended this resolution. The Committee added "four lane highways" to through streets. This resolution now includes Resolution No. 68. The amended resolution was adopted by the Conference.	Valley Regional	The Honourable Ronald C. Giffin replied that: "this resolution is substantially the same as Resolution No. 37, which I responded to on December 31, 1981. At this time, it is not intended to expand Provincial funding to 100% as the resolution requests. I would point out that the resolution indicates the Provincial contribution 'shall not exceed 50%'. This is not correct, as the Provincial contribution is never less than 50% and sometimes is as high as 93.39%."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
12	Maintaining Highways "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities make representation to the Minister of Transportation requesting that the Department give greater financial assistance to assist towns in the Province to maintain their local streets." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Queens-Lunenburg Regional Town of Mahone Bay	The mandate of the Department of Transportation for maintaining Provincial highways is covered within the Highways Act. Section 2 of the Act expresely excludes responsibility for highways within the boundaries of towns. While it would be desirable to provide greater assistance to towns for increased street maintenance, the resources of the Province are presently strained to the limit.
13	Anti-Litter Signs On Highways "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities petition the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation, to request that anti-littering signs be posted along the major highway routes, and be it further requested that the Department, if legislation permits, post legible signs indicating that persons caught littering may be fined." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South-West Regional Municipality of Shelburne	The Department of Transportation now posts "DO NOT LITTER" signs along major highway routes throughout the Province. However, the signing does not include the mention of penalty as to do so for the DO NOT LITTER sign could lead to the posting of signs indicating penalties for other infractions of the law. Another concern is that there are two different fine structures dependent on the Act under which a charge is laid. The Highway Act contains a fine of $50.00 maximum, plus cost of removal of litter. The Motor Vehicle Act has fines varying from $50.00 to $200.00 or jail terms, and these depend on the number of offences.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
14	Registry of Motor Vehicles Offices "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities petition the Province of Nova Scotia to open up a regional office of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in Yarmouth, similar to the office opened at Sydney, Nova Scotia, to make it easier and more convenient for the citizens in the western Nova Scotia area to deal with motor vehicle problems."	South-West Regional Municipality of Barrington	Due to the Staggered Registration System, peak work periods with accompanying delays in processing mailed applications do not normally occur. There would be little benefit in an applicant being able to apply to a regional office since the final document is generated by computer in Halifax. The annual costs for operating a regional office would outweigh any possible benefit to the public served.
15	Derelict Vehicle Program "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities approach the Province of Nova Scotia to request they continue the program, (Derelict Vehicle Program) because of its obvious benefits to the Province overall, i.e., tourism, and so on." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolution No. 69.	Halifax Regional Meeting Department of Environment	This resolution has been forwarded to the Provincial Department of Environment which has participated in a program with municipalities in the past. This program was a very successful endeavour by Governments, and we hope that something similar can be started in another year or so. The program which just terminated ran for five years at a cost of approximately $500,000 to the Province. The general understanding was that the municipal units would carry out the activities as the Province eased out of the program. That did not take place. The involvement by both levels of Government would have to be negotiated if a new program were to be started. The Minister suggested that he was quite prepared to set up meetings with representatvies of the Union of Municipalities and Departmental staff to dicuss the possibilities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
16	Highway - Breaking Soil "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Transportation to revise Policy Bulletin #23-P-64, to exempt municipal units from the requirement of providing deposit cheques in relation to such projects (construction projects involving breakup of highway surfaces)." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Valley Regional	Due to the many instances where Public Highways were damaged as a result of municipal services installations, it became necessary to establish a uniform Provincial policy. Repairs carried out by contractors on behalf of municipalities were usually inadequate, resulting in vehicle damage, numerous public complaints, together with unplanned and expensive repairs at the expense of the Transportation Department. The Policy calls for deposits to be in the form of certified cheque or money order; however, we have modified this where municipalities are concerned and will accept their deposit as an uncertified cheque in accordance with the established policy. Based on the Department's experience in this area, there is no basis for changing the policy.
17	Bridge Between Lingan and Dominion "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities recommend to the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation that a new bridge be constructed at this site (between the communities of Lingan and Dominion). This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Cape Breton Regional - Town of New Waterford	The request to restore the link across the sand bar between Lingan and Dominion has been investigated on previous occasions. The project would involve the construction of an extremely expensive bridge on a questionable foundation. The crossing would be exposed to the sea and therefore quite susceptible to damage from storms resulting in high maintenance costs. There is no doubt that the link across the sand bar would be a convenience to the local population; however, the Department feels that the area at large is amply and more economically served by the existing roadway network.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
18	Extension of Highway 125 to Lingan Road "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities recommend to the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation that Highway 125 be extended, to the Lingan Road. This Resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Cape Breton Regional - Town of New Waterford	The Department is in basic agreement with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities on this matter. It had been proposed to start work on this extension in 1982: however, due to the financial limitations imposed on our Capital Program, this project had to be postponed. The project has not been proposed for 1983 and present indications are that construction will begin next summer.
19	Upgrading of Via Rail Service "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge all levels of Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway to continue to improve and upgrade the Via Rail service running between Halifax and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and express to them the continued importance of this service, which must be maintained and continuously improved. This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South West Regional - Town of Yarmouth	The importance of this service will continue to be pressed by the Province and I understand the service has improved in spite of the fact that it is not paying its costs.

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PART C	**RESOLUTIONS RE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**		
20	Grant For Interim School Boards "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Education to make available to all District School Boards a one time initial establishment administrative grant." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Cumberland Regional - Municipality of the County of Cumberland	District school boards were established towards the end of 1981 or early in 1982 and, although requests were made by various municipal units for initial establishment grants, grants of this type were not paid. Establishment costs were not similar for all units; some units reported high establishment costs because they decided to undertake large capital investments for new board premises; some units did not report any additional costs; others received substantial financial benefits as a result of the establishment of district boards which outweighed any establishment costs; and payments of amounts to only "needy" units would have been inconsistent with the government's commitment to the uniform financial treatment to all municipal units in the province. Therefore, in recognition of the extra "start-up" costs being incurred by some units, it was agreed to forward the monthly advance cheques to all boards earlier in each month so that, as a result of sound management practices and short-term investment opportunities, interest earned on these early advances could easily offset any initial establishment costs. This practice has continued up to the present time and should have helped to offset "start-up" costs. Several school boards have already submitted financial statements to the Department for the year ended December 31, 1982. The surplus funds reported by these boards demonstrate that boards were able to cover "start-up" costs from funds provided according to the Department's established process so that additional grants do not appear to be warranted.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
21	Implementation of Walker Report "BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Education be requested to implement these recommendations of the Walker Commission Report" (respecting bargaining with the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union for all monetary benefits). This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Halifax Regional	The government has considered a change to existing bargaining arrangements with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union as recommended in the Report of the Commission on Public Education Finance whereby all monetary items would be negotiated at the provincial level, by an established committee. However, the Department has decided not to proceed with any major changes to existing bargaining arrangements at this time. The government recognizes the cost implications of the two-tier bargaining system and, as a temporary measure, in accordance with the provincial restraint program, has imposed controls on the levels of benefits and related costs that can be awarded through the local and provincial bargaining processes. These controls will ensure that escalations in costs related to new contracts will be settled at levels considered to be reasonable under the restraint program. During the next two years, the Minister of Education will re-assess bargaining arrangements after all local contracts for the new district school boards have been established and will consider further improvements to this process at a future date.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
22	Public School Program Expansion "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities advise the Minister of Education that it feels strongly that no expansion should be made in the public school program whether arising from the recommendations of the Public School Program Committee, or otherwise, until: the financial implications of the changes are clearly established; the method of financing the additional cost is established by the Formula Review Committee with the Minister's concurrence; the shared financing is established in such a way that no disproportionate burden falls on the municipal units." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Executive of the Union	No substantial changes are anticipated in the Public School Program as prescribed by the Minister. Those subjects required to be provided to all students by school boards should not increase the burden on either of the parties assuming the financial responsibilities for education programs and services in this Province. The possibility of a slightly expanded core program at the elementary level does exist. This expansion will consist of a program not available to 69% of our students. Those boards not now offering the program will be provided adequate time to phase it in over two to three years. The greater part of the cost of any programs made mandatory by the Province will continue to be borne by the Province. Therefore, no disproportionate burden will fall upon municipal units.
23	Increase In Education Costs "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities petition the appropriate Provincial Departments requesting that the increase of the share of education costs for municipal units in Nova Scotia for 1983 not exceed 6%." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Municipality of the County of Kings	The Minister of Education, the Honourable Terence Donahue replied: "I can understand your concern with cost increases as well as your desire to control the increase in the share of education costs paid by municipal units in Nova Scotia for 1983 to an amount not to exceed 6% of 1982 payments. Unfortunately, I cannot ensure that these increases in municipal contributions will not exceed 6%.

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			As you are aware, the government does not control total expenditures on public school education and, accordingly cannot control the total cost to the municipal units. Total expenditures on education are a factor of provincial grants but, in addition, are related to expenditure levels not covered by the funding formula which are supported, voluntarily, by municipal contributions. These voluntary contributions could result in total increases in municipal costs beyond the 6% maximum. The increase in the education tax rate is controlled by the government, and the increase in the tax rate at 5.2% is within the 6% guidelines of the restraint program. However, the growth in the ability to pay of municipal units related to increased assessments will result in increases in mandatory contributions by municipal units to school board operations in excess of 6%. Therefore, I am unable to agree to limit the municipal increase to 6%."
PART D	**RESOLUTIONS RE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**		
24	Cost of Social Assistance "BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Nova Scotia be urged to implement the recommendations of that special Committee." (Special Committee on Homes for Special Care). This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolutions Nos. 70, 71 and 72.	Resolutions Committee	The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities presented a brief to the Provincial Government entitled 'The Report of the Joint Task Force on Social Services'. The Report made a total of 26 recommendations, the most significant of which relates to increasing provincial cost-sharing for the maintenance of persons in Homes for Special Care. The substance of the recommendations relating to Homes for Special Care is that "the Province should relieve the Municipalities of the responsibilities for the cost of all nursing care and should play a greater financial role in the provision of personal care."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
			At the present time, the Province reimburses the municipalities for 66 2/3 percent of the cost of maintaining needy persons in Homes for Special Care. For the year 1982/83, the cost of this program will be approximately $50.6 million. The Province will cover $33.7 million through the cost-sharing arrangements and the Municipalities will cover the remaining $16.9 million. Given the need for financial restraint at this time, the Department is not able to recommend addition to the Province's current rate of cost-sharing with the Municipalities (66 2/3 percent) for the maintenance of needy persons in Homes for Special Care.
25	Assistance For Social Assistance Costs "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities make representation to the Provincial Government and urge the Provincial Government to provide financial support for Municipal Employment Programs in lieu of social assistance for able-bodied individuals." This Resolutions Committee recommended this resolution, which is an amendment of the resolution as submitted which read as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities make representation to the Department of Social Services encouraging that Department to more closely scrutinize those citizens receiving assistance and to provide financial support for municipal employment programs in lieu of social assistance for able-bodied individuals."	Queens-Lunenburg Regional Meeting - Town of Mahone Bay	The Department of Social Services concurs with the principle behind the resolution - that is, that persons who are able to do so ideally should work instead of developing a dependence on social assistance. The Federal Government, in cooperation with the Province of Nova Scotia, is instituting a program to help employable persons who are about to exhaust their unemployment insurance benefits, to work at projects that will improve services in communities. The Department of Development has established Winter Works projects for this fiscal year. Recently the provincial government also announced a 1983 summer work project totalling $5,580,000. The Canada Assistance Plan is very clear in regards to Social Assistance funds being used for employment programs. The Federal Government will not cost-share with any Province for work projects if they are mandatory and constitute "work for relief". However, the Federal Government

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			is cost-sharing with us on the two Neighbourhood Work Activity Projects ($848,000.) in Halifax and Dartmouth which are geared to preparing persons for further training or employment. Here once again participation by the client must be voluntary. The Department of Social Services has agreed to an experimental project in the County of Shelburne and the Municipality of Barrington whereby those able-bodied unemployed who apply for assistance can be referred to work projects and have the salaries for these projects paid through the General Assistance program. Cost-sharing will not be received for these projects from the Federal Government; therefore, the Province and Municipal Unit will share on a 50/50 basis the total cost. The cost of these projects is small - $21,500. It is recommended that the Municipal Units take maximum advantage of the new federal program and the anticipated program of the Department of Development. Meanwhile, the Department of Social Services, on a pilot basis, could respond to individual areas to cost-share on limited amounts of money in particular areas, similar to the project in the County of Shelburne and Barrington Municipality.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
26	Care of Mentally Retarded Children "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities go on record as approving this practice (of keeping and maintaining the mentally retarded in one home, except to transfer a patient to an appropriate home closer to their family) and encourage the Department of Social Services to continue to operate in this most humane manner. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Social Services disapprove any move to proceed contrary to this practice." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South Western Regional Meeting - Town of Lockeport	As stated in the resolution it has been, and continues to be, the policy of the Department of Social Services to maintain mentally retarded children requiring residential care in departmental facilities as close as possible to the child's family home. Exceptions only occur if one children's facility is filled to capacity and a temporary placement has to be made in another facility until space is available. In addition, the Department has worked with Municipalities to establish a residential service system for mentally handicapped adults on this same basis, encouraging the development of a range of residential services for both the mentally retarded and those returning to the community after psychiatric treatment as close as possible to their own homes. It is also the policy of the Department of Social Services to arrange regular reviews of each adult mentally handicapped resident's placement to determine if it continues to be appropriate. "We encourage movement to less restrictive non-institutional settings such as group homes, development residences, supervised apartments and, where possible, independent living in the community, for those whose continuing development justifies such an opportunity."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
PART E	**RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO MUNICIPAL-PROVINCIAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**		
27	Cost-Sharing For Municipal Capital Projects "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities intensify its efforts to convince the Federal Government and the Province of Nova Scotia of the urgent need for cost-sharing for municipal capital projects." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South West Regional - Municipality of Digby	The Department continues to share the Union's concern that the failure of the Federal Government to provide assistance for the provision of much needed water and sewer projects in this Province has grave implications for the safety, health and economic well-being of Nova Scotia and its municipalities. Honourable Tom McInnis, Minister of Municipal Affairs stated: "I and officials from my department have expressed this opinion to the Honourable Herb Gray, former Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, during meetings in his office where we strongly urged that federal funding be redirected in order that these essential services can be proceeded with in our communities. As a result of the meetings between Mr. Gray and myself, a Task Force has been set up to review the relationship between the availability of water to industry and loss of industrial jobs in Yarmouth as the basis for funding municipal water works across the Province. Members on that Task Force include representatives from my department, the Department of Development, the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the Mayor of Yarmouth, Ms. Coleen Campbell MP, Mr. Fraser Mooney MLA, and a representative from the Yarmouth Area Board of Trade. It is my understanding that the Task Force will file its report in Ottawa in the near future.

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			I am further encouraged by statements made by the Honourable Marc LaLonde, Federal Minister of Finance, which imply that there may be some assistance for municipal public works in the upcoming federal budget."
28	Revision of Grant Structure "BE IT RESOLVED that the distribution formula of such grants be amended to take full account of uniform assessment and need; and that assistance be sought from the Federal Government through the auspices of the Province of Nova Scotia to ensure funding to enable service development in anticipation of growth. This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Cape Breton Regional - Municipality of the County of Cape Breton	The standards used in determining how the funds will be allocated under the Municipal Grants Act are developed from actual expenditures as set out by the municipal units in their financial statements. Similarly, uniform assessment has been selected as the most appropriate reflection of municipal ability to pay because it is a factual indication of a municipal unit's ability to raise taxes. The grant program recognizes that the standard expenditure applied to each class of community will escalate over time with rising costs and provides for a mandatory review of the standard expenditure every three years. In fact, it has been the practice of the department to annually review the components of the standard expenditure to ensure that their calculation is based on the best information available. This analysis is reflected in the new standard expenditures established for the purpose of allocating the 1983 entitlements under the program. While certain aspects of the new grant program, such as the designation of Class IV areas, have been reviewed by Task Force since the introduction of the Municipal Grants At, no need for major changes in the basic components of the program has been identified as a result of this monitoring.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
PART F	**RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY**		
29	Heat Pumps and Municipal Services "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities consult with officials of the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment, Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, and the Department of Municipal Affairs, with the object of preparing recommendations to the municipal units in this regard (concern regarding heat pumps as an alternative energy source to fossil fuels). This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.		Department staff were asked to make inquiries to the appropriate officials and agencies. It was discovered that the Town of Amherst now has policies in place which govern the installation of ground water source heat pumps. These policies were outlined to the citizens of Amherst in an advertisement which appeared in the Amherst Daily News on November 16, 1982. Amherst's Town Engineer, Mr. Ronald Patterson, P. Eng., was responsible for drafting this by-law and will conduct a study of two to three years duration to determine the relationship between heat pump water requirements, the type and size of heat pump installations, and the heat loss characteristics of the homes involved. This information will allow a realistic assessment of the ground water source heat pump's benefits and drawbacks, and will assist the Town of Amherst in establishing future policy. The Chief of Water Resources Planning of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment (Mr. C. Lin) was contacted as well. He indicated that he visited Amherst in November and does not feel any further action is required beyond the new by-law.
PART G	**RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO ASSESSMENT - DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**		
30	Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation "AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government assume the responsibility for the loss in the local assessment tax base" (due to the decreased assessments attributable to UFFI - Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation)."	Queens-Lunenburg Regional	Since the provincial takeover of assessment in 1976 the department has endeavoured to bring all properties in Nova Scotia to a uniform base. The last province-wide reassessment brought all properties in the province to market value as of the base date January 1, 1980. Subsequent reductions or increases in the assessment of any property will be made at regular intervals to reflect market conditions in our province.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
			In the absence of detailed market data the 25% reduction in the assessment of homes and buildings insulated with urea formaldehyde foam was a policy decision made by the department based on comparable reductions for similar situations in other provinces. Many homeowners have already made application for testing and remedial work under the federal department of Consumer Affairs' assistance program for properties insulated with urea formaldehyde foam. Presumbly, the market value and therefore the assessed value of these properties will be increased once the appropriate remedial work is carried out. The department may have to review its policy of arbitrary reductions in the assessment of those urea formaldehyde foam insulation homes where the homeowner has decided not to take advantage of the removal assistance program.
31	Industrial Incentives "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Nova Scotia consider two alternatives to these agreements (agreements with new industries as an incentive to locate in a municipal unit): 1. Municipalities which are affected by these agreements be included in the negotiation of same. 2. The Province of Nova Scotia must consider subsidizing the municipal units to the amount of subsidy provided to industry.	Inverness-Richmond-Victoria Regional	The department's position as set out in response to an identical resolution passed at the Union's 1981 Conference remains unchanged. The Bonus Act and IEL Act both require municipal consent, through written agreement, as a prerequisite to the granting of municipal tax concessions for industrial development. As such, it is the department's position that any discussion with prospective industrial concerns regarding tax concessions must include and take into consideration the views of the municipal unit involved.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
	This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.		
32	Assessment Act - Change In Use Provisions "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Nova Scotia be requested to re-examine the Change in Use provisions of the Assessment Act of Nova Scotia, with a view to amending those provisions so that they do not discourage conversion from farm, forestry, or recreational resource to commercial or residential use, in those areas which have been designated by a town or county Development Plan as areas in which residential growth is to be encouraged." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Valley Regional	Implementation of the proposal put forward in this particular resolution requires further consideration. Planning designations reflect what the potential development may be but do not guarantee that the development will ever take place. Even where a non-farm designation is applied to an existing farm operation, the owner retains the option of continuing to farm or selling out. The most significant impact on a farmer under these circumstances is that the value of his property for non-farm purposes may be greatly increased due to improved market circumstances brought about by the new designation under the plan and by-law. This proposal also raises a number of administrative concerns. For instance, the manner in which a farm that has previously been exempt from municipal taxation would be treated under the Assessment Act once designated for non-farm use needs to be considered, especially if the owner continues to maintain a bona fide farming operation. The issue is further complicated by the fact that under the Planning Act councils are unrestrained in their discretionary power to subsequently redesignate the land as "agricultural" at some future date. The department is currently examining a number of aspects related to change in use tax in conjunction with Policy Board staff and representatives of the department of Lands and Forests and the Department of Agriculture. The department will ask that the suggestion put forward in this resolution also be examined by this Committee.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
33	Rate of Tax On Forest Property "BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Nova Scotia be requested to institute an annual review of the tax rates set on Forest Resource and Forest Commercial land, to insure that the said rates continue to reflect the increasing value of Forest lands." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolution No. 74.	Colchester-East Hants Regional	Section 40B(4) of the Assessment Act currently provides that the "Governor in Council may by regulation change the rates of tax set out in subsection (3) (forest property tax) for the taxation year 1981 and every third year thereafter." The Department will undertake to recommend to Government that consideration be given to introducing legislation to provide for the annual review of the forestry tax rate and such adjustments to the rate as may be determined appropriate.
34	Assessment of Agricultural Property "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Minister of Municipal Affairs be urged to take the necessary steps to give the owner of agricultural property the right to choose that his land not be exempted from taxation, but be annually assessed and taxed as non-agricultural property, and thus not subject to the Change of Use Tax." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Colchester-East Hants Regional	The Department has referred this resolution to the committee established to review various aspects of the change-in-use tax as currently provided for under the Assessment Act. The Department will also undertake to prepare and make available to the public, a brochure on Change in Use Tax and its application in Nova Scotia.
35	Identification of Mobile Homes "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Department of Municipal Affairs require the Assessment Division to instruct all Assessors to gather serial numbers, makes, and models, dimensions, and pictures, of all mobile homes, as part of the description on the Assessment Roll.	Municipality of Queens County	A directive has recently been sent to all regional assessment offices instructing that assessors are to record and identify on the roll the serial number, make and model of all mobile homes.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
	This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolutions Nos. 75 and 76.		
36	Assessed Owner Liable For Taxes On Mobile Homes "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Provincial Government to enact legislation to designate the assessed property owner liable for all rates and taxes on mobile homes and trailer parks." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolutions Nos. 77, 78, 79 and 83.	Town of Mahone Bay	Department staff have been directed to look into possible solutions to the problem of collecting rates and taxes levied against mobile homes.
PART H	RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		
37	Financial Support For Hospitals "BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Nova Scotia be commended for past support of our hospitals, and be urged through its Department of Health to ensure that sufficient funding be provided to avoid curtailment of services and to permit development of new services." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Queens-Lunenburg Regional - Town of Bridgewater	As in the past, the Department of Health will continue to endeavour to provide the hospitals with sufficient operating funds to avoid curtailment of services, and to permit the development of necessary new services. The percentage increase of the 1982-83 portable block over the 1981-82 approved portable was 14.9% for Dawson Memorial Hospital. In a time of economic restraint, I believe that this increase is indicative of the commitment of the Department of Health to the Dawson Memorial Hospital.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
PART I	RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION - DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS		
38	Area Rates Plebiscites "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Municipal Affairs to amend this Section, [Section 141 (1)(a) of the Municipal Act] to state: 'The Council may, in accordance with the majority of the RATEPAYERS who reside in an area, illustrated through a secret vote (plebiscite), make in that area, or for the benefit of that area, an expenditure in Section 136 or otherwise authorized by law.' This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolution No. 80.	South West Regional - District of Clare	Current provisions under Section 141 (1)(a) of the Municipal Act are intended to accommodate those instances, especially in regard to area rate matters, where a petition presents a less expensive alternative to a plebiscite. A council is not bound to act on any petition and if there were questions about the manner in which the petition was circulated, the council could dismiss the petition or instruct that a plebiscite be held pursuant to Section 151 of the Municipal Act before the matter is decided. With regard to who may vote in a plebiscite, the department will undertake to advise Social Policy Board of the Union's concerns on the matter of voting by other than ratepayers.
39	Pedlars "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Municipal Affairs be petitioned to enact legislation amending the Towns Act, to allow town by-laws to be applicable to 'products of the farm, the forest or the sea', for purposes of licensing and regulating such pedlars, with power to discriminate between ratepayers and non-ratepayers."	Valley Regional	The original intent of Section 221 (59) of the Towns Act and Section 191 (72) of the Municipal Act was to permit the primary producer or fisherman to sell direct to the consumer. However, as suggested in the preamble to this resolution in many instances it is now other than the farmer, forester or fisherman who is selling from vehicles and this has placed merchants with substantial overheads in a disadvantaged position.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
	This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolution No. 81.		The department will, therefore, recommend that changes be made to the Towns Act and Municipal Act as set out in this resolution. Department staff have been asked to look into this matter to determine what amendments would be required to permit councils to recover expenses pursuant to an order, in the same manner as property taxes.
40	Recovery of Expenses "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested to amend any such Provincial Statutes - including but not limited to the dangerous and unsightly premises section of the Municipal Act and Towns Act, the Health Act, and the Fences and Detention of Stray Livestock Act - to provide that sums of money spent by a municipal unit or local board, pursuant to an order, may be collected in the same manner as property taxes." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference. This resolution includes Resolution No. 82.	Valley Regional	
41	Municipal Elections Act "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the enactment of appropriate amendments to the Municipal Elections Act which would provide for the establishment in any polling district of a 'mobile' or 'portable' polling station, which could move from institution to institution on election day, on a schedule to be determined and advertised by the Returning Officer with the provision that this polling station may be established at a cen-	Valley Regional	Honourable Tom McInnis replied: "In light of comments and suggestions raised before, during and after the municipal elections, I am proposing to establish a small committee to review the Municipal Elections Act and have asked President Harry Cook if the Union would nominate three representatives to serve on that committee. I have also asked that Resolution #41 be referred to the committee for its consideration."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
	tral location following completion of its rounds as a polling station for the infirm for the balance of the day, if in the opinion of the Returning Officer this is feasible. This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.		
42	Protection of Councillors "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Government of Nova Scotia to amend the applicable legislation governing municipal units so that councillors are afforded the same protection as afforded Members of the Legislative Assembly under the House of Assembly Act, R.S.N.S. 1967, Chapter 128. This resolution was not recommended by the Resolutions Committee. However, it was adopted by the Conference after rejection of the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.	Queens-Lunenburg Regional - Municipality of the District of Chester	The department has referred this resolution to the Social Policy Board for its consideration.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
43	Convenience Stores On Sunday "BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be asked to amend the relevant municipal legislation to permit municipal councils to regulate the operation of 'convenience stores' including the hours of their operation."	City of Sydney	Councils may, under subsection (77) of Section 221 of the Towns Act or under subsection (90) of Section 191 of the Municipal Act, pass a by-law regulating the hours of operation of shops, stores and places in which goods are exposed or offered for sale by retail.
44	By-Law Re Automatic Machines "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the by-law authority of councils be amended, to clearly set out the jurisdictional considerations which a council may include in such a by-law." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Cumberland Regional - Town of Amherst	Amendments to the Municipal Act and the Towns Act have been introduced which will permit councils to pass by-laws determining the lighting requirements for establishments in which automatic machines are located and the minimum floor space required for each machine. There is authority in the Acts now for municipal and town councils to regulate automatic machines.
45	Cost of Education Where Acclamation For Councillor "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that during municipal elections, in those cases where a ballot is required for the election of a School Board member but not for a municipal councillor, the entire cost of the election in that District be paid by the Nova Scotia Department of Education." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Colchester-East Hants Regional	The Honourable Terence R. B. Donahoe, Minister of Education, has referred this matter to Policy Board and the Executive Council. The Executive Council has decided the responsibility and the cost of conducting elections of school boards should continue to be the responsibility of the municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
46	Sheep Protection and Dog Regulation Act "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested to add a section to the Sheep Protection and Dog Regulation Act covering the control of behaviour of dogs, including provision for a hearing before a Provincial Judge to determine whether a dog which has attacked or bitten a person should be destroyed by a pound keeper or veterinarian, and providing for such destruction when deemed necessary. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Municipal Affairs review the Towns Act, the Municipal Act, and the Sheep Protection and Dog Regulation Act, to facilitate the administration of dog control in municipal units." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Valley Regional	Department staff are currently preparing the necessary documentation in order that this matter may be addressed by the Government and appropriate legislation introduced.
47	Fines - Weed Control Act "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested to increase the penalties under Section 17 of the Weed Control Act to, in all cases, a fine of not less than $100.00 and not more than $1,000.00." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Valley Regional	Honourable Tom McInnis referred this matter to Honourable Roger Bacon, Minister of Agriculture, who is responsible for the administration of the Weed Control At, and asked that he give consideration of this particular resolution.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
48	Appointments To Local Housing Authorities "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities sponsor an amendment to the Nova Scotia Housing Commission Policy to make the appointment of one council representative on local or regional housing authorities optional to participating councils." This resolution was not recommended by the Resolutions Committee. The report of the Resolutions Committee was not accepted and the Conference adopted the resolution.	South West Regional - Town of Lockeport	The Housing Development Act does not appear to contain provisions preventing the appointment of council representatives of a housing authority. Honourable Mike Laffin was of the opinion that there was apparently some restriction in the Housing Development Act which prevented municipal councillors from sitting on housing authorities due to a potential conflict of interest. Section 31(1) of the Housing Development Act states that "the Governor in Council may constitute a body corporate to be a housing authority for the municipality and prescribe its membership and the manner of appointment of members." This is the only direct reference to membership that staff could find in the Statute. It would, therefore, appear that the absence of council representatives on housing authorities is in fact a policy matter. It is interesting to note that Section 33 of the Act provides that if a council of a participating municipality so provides by by-law "the Governor in Council may prescribe that any or all of the powers and duties of a housing authority or regional housing authority may be exercised by a regional metropolitan planning commission created under the Town Planning Act." This, of course, would be transferable to a District Planning Commission under the present Act. Although such delegation has never occurred, District Planning Commissions do, of course, have council members on them and would therefore have councillors directly involved in the housing authority.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response

Nova Scotia Housing Commission

Current policies for Housing Authorities provide local, municipal councils with an opportunity to effectively participate in the appointment of Housing Authority members. (The policies are established under the provisions of Sections 31 and 32 of the Housing Development Act).

Municipal Councils nominate one member (not a municipal councillor) to Regional Housing Authorities. Regional Housing Authorities are in operation in Cape Breton County, Pictou County, Lunenburg County, Queens County, Cumberland County and Shelburne County.

In the case of local Housing Authorities, municipal (which can include councillors), provincial and federally selected representatives constitute the nominating committee for Housing Authority membership. The committee's nominees for membership are formally approved by the provincial Minister responsible for the administration of the Housing Development Act.

As a member of the Partnership, municipal council is required to approve Housing Authority budgets, which also provides an opportunity to review Housing Authority operations.

The Housing Commission hopes that these current policies provide councils with a good opportunity to participate in Housing Authority appointments and operations and "we will continue to encourage maximum municipal participation."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
PART J	MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS		
49	Continuation of Essential Services "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Provincial Government to enact preventive legislation to ensure the continuance of essential services, such as hospitals, homes for special care, and protection services, i.e., police, fire." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South West Regional - Municipality of Yarmouth	Honourable John M. Buchanan replied: "My Government shares the Union's interest in the question of essential services. However, it is my feeling that an issue of such scope and importance to all Nova Scotians can only be fully and properly examined in a forum which will provide municipal governments and the public with an opportunity to make their views known. To this end, it remains the Government's intention to proceed, as announced, with a Commission on the matter of essential services. To proceed with legislative action, of the nature proposed by this resolution, before a Commission has filed its report and recommendation would be premature."
50	Retaining Professional Negotiator "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities investigate the best method of engaging a professional negotiator. (for consultation or as a contract negotiator for municipal units)." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Cumberland Regional - Town of Parrsboro	This was a matter to be resolved by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
51	Interest Rates On Mortgages "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities write to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Housing, to urge them to immediately lower the interest rate on all housing mortgages, either by action through CMHC or by ordering the banks to use part of their loans for housing mortgages, or both these avenues." The Resolutions Committee did not recommend this resolution. The report of the Committee was rejected by the Conference which amended the original resolution by deleting a reference to 10%. The amended resolution was adopted by the Conference.	Halifax Regional	Nova Scotia Housing Commission The establishment of interest rates is a federal matter, the responsibility of the Bank of Canada. The serious impact of high interest rates on residential construction has recently been alleviated with major decreases in mortgage interest rates and we are hopeful that these rates will moderate still further. During the period of high mortgage interest rates, the province endeavoured to minimize the impact of interest rates by reducing interest rates on Housing Commission administered programmes such as the Self Help, Lease Purchase and New Home Mortgage Programmes. Provincial A.H.O.P. mortgage renewals were also limited to a maximum of 14%. Recent initiatives by the federal and provincial governments support and encourage new residential construction. The federal government has introduced a $3000 rebate for new home and first time home buyers. The province has also increased the provincial sales tax rebate for new homes from $750 to $2000. (Current deadlines for the federal and provincial programmes are December 1983).

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
52	Environmental Guidelines "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia to adopt the Federal Environmental Protection Agency guidelines; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia to adopt such other or further regulations so that standards will be set by the Province of Nova Scotia to prevent such emissions; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these standards be put into effect so that existing industries will have to upgrade gradually to meet those standards by a certain date in the future." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	City of Dartmouth - Environment	Nova Scotia Department of Environment Honourable Greg Kerr, Minister of the Department of Environment replied: "There appears to be some confusion about this resolution. At present, we are following the standards established under the Ambient Air Quality Objectives which encompasses all Provinces. Not only is Nova Scotia satisfactorily reaching the objective, but we are considered to be in the desirable range, which means, province-wide, we are ensuring good air. There is constant monitoring and inspection to ensure that this level is maintained. However, the matter of flue gas scrubbing for specific control (and I emphasize 'control' not 'prevention') is being widely debated in many jurisdictions. Many experts strongly question the effectiveness of scrubbing and considering the very high expense suggest other means of handling the problem. At any rate, I want to assure you that we are working with both American and Canadian officials on this complicated matter, and believe we are gaining ground."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
53	Amusement Arcades "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Provincial Government to enact legislation to provide minimum standards for amusement arcades, to limit access of children of the age of fourteen years and under to such arcades, and to provide for effective enforcement of such provisions by action against the operators of such arcades that fail to conform to those provisions." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Kings County	Department of Municipal Affairs It is the opinion of the department that the location of amusement arcades can probably be regulated through a zoning by-law adopted under the Planning Act. The department is unsure of the constitutionality of restricting the age of users. However, I understand that this matter has been referred to the Attorney General by the Union for his comments. The Honourable Tom McInnis replied: "In my opinion this is a matter better dealt with at the municipal level although I would be prepared to recommend provincial legislation, if necessary, specifically authorizing municipalities to enact By-laws."
54	Restraint Program "BE IT RESOLVED that: 1. The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is of the opinion that all efforts must be made to master inflation and activate employment. 2. The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities endorses the principle of restraint in public sector wages adopted by the Government of Canada as a useful first step in leading the economy to recovery. 3. The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities recommends that the gross increase in municipal budgets be limited to 6% and 5% over the next two years. And that within that guideline local prerogative should apply to the distribution of the increase in order to protect low income earners.	The Executive The Resolution Committee	In September, 1982, Premier Buchanan announced a six per cent public sector wage restraint policy for the Province of Nova Scotia, to be effective for a 12-month period. No announcement has as yet been made on a five per cent guideline for the second year as recommended in this resolution.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
	4. This restraint program should be non-selective, and should be broadened to apply to all wages, incomes, prices, dividends, and public and private sector spending. 5. The restraint program must necessarily be accompanied by a firm stimulative program to create jobs, in particular in areas of housing and industrial development. 6. That governments at all levels be encouraged to examine job creation techniques that will not add to the pressures of inflation. 7. That the Federal and Provincial Governments must attack the economic problems of Canada on a full inter-governmental basis, with the assistance of the municipal units. This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.		

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
55	Sale of Chilled Beer "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities go on record as requesting the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia not to provide chilled beer for sale out of outlets of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission, as such sales would encourage consumption of beer other than in the home, and would thereby lead to public disorderliness and increased motor vehicle hazards." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South West Regional - Town of Yarmouth	Nova Scotia Liquor Commission Honourable Ronald Russell, Minister in Charge of Administration of the Liquor Control Act stated: "Although this matter has been under discussion for several years, I have been advised by the Commission that they do not foresee bringing a proposal to Government for permission to sell chilled beer in the foreseeable future."
56	Beaches Preservation and Protection "BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of municipalities, their residents and visitors, that we recommend to the Provincial Department of Lands and Forests the Beaches Preservation and Protection Act be amended as follows: 1. to include restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles on beaches; 2. to require protective measures (such as boardwalks) to be used on dune systems and salt marshes where there is any volume of pedestrian traffic;	Queens-Lunenburg Regional - Municipality of Queens	Lands and Forests The passage of this Resolution indicates the concern of Municipal Governments to the growing problem of indiscriminate use of motorized vehicles on the beaches of Nova Scotia. This problem is undoubtedly growing at a rate comparable to the sale of motorized vehicles which are capable of off-road use. The use of these vehicles on the beaches and in particular the dune systems, results in destruction of the grasses and vegetation which stabilize the dunes and hold them in place. The Department of Lands and Forests has become increasingly aware of these problems both through the observation of staff and through the number of complaints received from the public.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
	3. to provide for enforcement of the Act; 4. to be more specific in relation to all sections. This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.		At present there are two pieces of legislation which provide some control of motorized vehicles. On Crown lands, the Provincial Parks Act provides control of vehicular traffic and the Parks Program provides sound management and appropriate development of beaches. Care is taken to install boardwalks in areas where park users cross the dunes, and other suitable controls are installed. On privately owned lands, the only means of protecting beaches is the Beaches Preservation and Protection Act. Under this legislation, all beaches of the Province are deemed to be protected, up to the mean high water mark. The dunes, however, are above this point, and can only be protected when an area landward of mean high water is surveyed, marked, designated by Order-in-Council and gazetted. To date, about 75 beaches have been protected in this way. This process is necessary in order to clearly define any area which is to be protected under the legislation. (1) The purpose of the Act is sufficiently broad, that regulations have been established which specifically prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on beaches, which are designated under the Act. (2) Because the Act applies to privately owned beaches, it is unreasonable to expect private landowners to install boardwalks in high traffic areas, unless they are promoting the use of a designated beach by the public, and are deriving some revenue from this. In such cases, however, the installation of boardwalks could be required.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
			(3) Enforcement of the Act and regulations pertaining to motorized vehicles is difficult because they are often relatively inaccessible for Department of Lands and Forests staff. When complaints are received, it takes time to get staff members, who may be working on other projects, to the site. Co-operation of the public in pressing charges is not often available. Clearly the education of the public regarding the damage being done, and the co-operation of the public in enforcement is required. There is another problem regarding the actual authority for enforcement of the Act which appears to require that charges be laid by the RCMP. This matter will be looked at with a view to clarifying it and facilitating Department of Lands and Forests enforcement.
			(4) The problems with the Act are not so much related to the language as to the need for public education and public co-operation in recognizing the importance of beaches and assisting in their management. Municipalities could assist in this endeavour, as well as assisting to identify beaches that are in need of designation and protection. Much greater effort is required by <u>all</u> in order to bring about effective control and management of the valuable beach resources of this Province.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
57	Forest Management "BE IT RESOLVED that legislation be passed immediately to encourage the proper management as outlined in the recent Federal-Provincial agreements and protection of these valuable resources." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough Regional - District of Guysborough	Lands and Forests The new Canada/Nova Scotia Forest Resource Development Agreement signed on August 31, 1982, will provide continued support for forest management activities on all classes of land tenure in the Province. It is the intention to ensure that activities supported under the Agreement are undertaken in an ecologically sound manner and in compliance with relevant statutes such as the Water Act. To this end, the Department has recently distributed a Forest Access Road Planning and Construction Manual to guide the construction of roads on Crown land. On all lands, an operational forest management plan is a prerequisite of assistance and areas are field checked by Department staff. Therefore, no new legislation is envisioned.
58	Migratory Bird Season "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities forward a letter to the Minister of Lands and Forests in support of a petition circulated in Shelburne County requesting that the migratory bird hunting season, where appropriate, opening and closing date be changed to a time when the birds are in the area and are more mature." This resolution was recommended by the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Conference.	South West Regional - Municipality of Shelburne	The migratory bird hunting regulations are set by the Federal Government through the Canadian Wildlife Service. As you will appreciate, it is not an easy task to establish seasons and bag limits for waterfowl which will satisfy the interest of people and ensure sound management of the resource. Some hunters like an early season while others prefer a much later closure than the present January 15th. Since seventy days are allocated by the Federal Government to encompass the waterfowl hunting season, it becomes necessary to work towards striking a balance between the interests of various user groups and conservation of the resource.

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			Some groups prefer an early opening date because certain waterfowl species are available only for a short time before moving through the flyway. Most perfer a later date, preferably extending beyond January 15th which is the present deadline. "The deadline of January 15th has been established for several reasons: (1) all migrations to the Province are practically complete by this date and therefore we are harvesting heavily from our wintering populations; (2) adult female black ducks are most heavily harvested in January - these birds supply the nucleus of next year's breeding population; (3) late in January birds are confined by ice and limited in the area they can feed - this makes them vulnerable and large numbers can be harvested in a short time under favourable conditions; (4) many of our breeding birds and their young over winter in the Province - since these birds may move between zones, it is possible that many are exposed to long periods of hunting encompassing a period of ninety days. Presently there is a concern that the decline of black ducks over the last decade and future management may entail some means of reducing black duck harvest. At this stage we feel that any extension of the season would not be in the best interests of the black duck population, the Canada goose population or the hunters in the long run."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
59	Voluntary Community Development "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities indicate its support for the aims and philosophy of the Voluntary Associations for Community Development Sector of the Voluntary Planning Board in an attempt to inspire and co-ordinate the planning goals of community development organizations and that the needs of the Voluntary Associations for Community Development Sector be considered in the preparation of the province' development strategy White Paper." The Conference adopted this resolution.	From Floor of Conference - Councillor Filmore	Department of Development Honourable Roland Thornhill replied: "The White Paper process is well underway and should be complete in the next few months. Community voluntary development associations are not only being 'considered' in the document but are being mentioned specifically. As a further assurance of the Sector's profile Mr. Lester Settle, Chairman of the Voluntary Associations for Community Development Sector of Voluntary Planning, has been added to Voluntary Planning's Development Strategy Committee which is working on the White Paper with my Planning and Policy staff. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Resolution. If you wish further explanation you can contact Mr. Dick Fletcher, the Executive Director of the Policy and Planning Division of my Department."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
SECTION III	RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE		
85	Grant For Capital Debt Charges For School Purposes "BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities strongly urge the Minister of Education to honour his commitment and pay grants on all capital debt charges for school purposes as stated prior to the implementation of the recommendations of the Walker Committee." The Resolutions Committee recommended that this resolution be referred to the incoming Executive, with the request that the Union representatives on the Formula Review Committee take the matter up with officials of the Department of Education. It is understood that the problems dealt with in this resolution arise from the particular circumstances and the agreement involved in setting up a particular District School Board. It is anticipated that this recommended action will deal satisfactorily with the problems. It was so referred by the Conference.	South West Regional - Town of Lockeport	This resolution was referred to the Formula Review Committee.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
86	Nova Scotia Power Corporation Grants In Lieu of Taxes "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities press the Government of Nova Scotia to include property owned by the Nova Scotia Power Corporation as property subject to grant in lieu of taxation." The Resolutions Committee did not recommend this resolution, but did recommend that the problem of grants to municipalities by the Nova Scotia Power Corporation be referred to the incoming Executive, with instructions to pursue the matter and attempt to obtain an amendment to present legislation which will permit the annual increase of the grants paid by the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to municipal units. It was so referred by the Conference. It also includes Resolution No. 84.	Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough Regional - Town of Trenton	Present legislation provides for grants in lieu of taxes paid by the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to be distributed among all the municipal units in the province regardless of the location of Corporation facilities. This, in the government's opinion, provides for a more equitable distribution of such grants than would be the case should this Resolution be acted upon. Resolution #86 would result in a significant shift in the distribution of Nova Scotia Power Corporation grants, with massive grants being paid to a relatively few municipalities while the vast majority of municipal units would see their present grants eliminated. This would be contrary to the philosophy of pro-rated sharing of Corporation grants in lieu which is the basis for the existing legislation.
87	Uranium Mining "BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Government of Nova Scotia to retain the moratorium on uranium mining and exploration for the foreseeable future." The Resolutions Committee did not recommend this resolution. The Resolutions Committee felt that it should be tabled pending the completion of the McCleave Inquiry and the receipt of the McCleave Report. It was referred to the Executive pending receipt of the McCleave Report.	Queens-Lunenburg Regional - Municipality of the District of Chester	As of this Report's publication date, the McCleave Report had not been released.

MUNICIPAL UNIT	MUNICIPAL CLERK-TREASURER/ CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	PHONE NUMBER
Cities		
Dartmouth	Bruce Smith	421 - 2134
Halifax	Gladys Blennerhassett	421 - 6536
Sydney	Rick Farmer (Treasurer)	539 - 0940
Towns		
Amherst	Vern Parrett	667 - 3352
Annapolis Royal	Doug Souchen	532 - 2043
Antigonish	Stan MacLellan	863 - 1312
Bedford	Dan English	835 - 9936
Berwick	Ed Jones	538 - 3657
Bridgetown	Bill Hamilton	665 - 4637
Bridgewater	Bill Hebb	543 - 4651
Canso	Margaret MacDougall	366 - 2525
Clark's Harbour	Hattie Nickerson	745 - 2390
Digby	Jim Wheelhouse	245 - 4769
Dominion	Valerie Bobyk	849 - 6556
Glace Bay	Bruce Sterns	849 - 5541
Hantsport	Joe McGinn	684 - 3211
Kentville	Don Hardy	678 - 2107
Liverpool	(Mr.) Shirley Nixon	354 - 5701
Lockeport	Hilton Chymist	656 - 2216
Louisbourg	Elaine MacPherson	733 - 2014
Lunenburg	Jim Wentzell	634 - 4410
Mahone Bay	Kyle Hiltz	624 - 8327
Middleton	Earl Bennett	825 - 4841
Mulgrave	Harry MacFarlane	747 - 2243
New Glasgow	Hiram Aikens	752 - 4278
New Waterford	Jerry Ryan	862 - 6401
North Sydney	Earl Snow	794 - 7213
Oxford	Harris McCormack	447 - 2170
Parrsboro	Ashley Brown	254 - 2036
Pictou	David Steele	485 - 4372
Port Hawkesbury	Colin MacDonald	625 - 2746
Shelburne	Wilmont Hardy	875 - 2991
Springhill	Doug Maddison	597 - 3751

MUNICIPAL UNIT	MUNICIPAL CLERK-TREASURER/ CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	PHONE NUMBER
Towns		
Stellarton	Adrian Pearson	752 - 2114
Stewiacke	Joan Astle	378 - 2231
Sydney Mines	Lois Gordon	736 - 6226
Trenton	Robin Campbell	752 - 5311
Truro	Dave Gilroy	895 - 4484
Westville	Clyde Purvis	396 - 5144
Windsor	Larry Armstrong	798 - 2275
Wolfville	Roy Thomson	542 - 3037
Yarmouth	Kay Moses	742 - 2521
Rural Municipalities		
Annapolis	Ron Grant	532 - 2331
Antigonish	Alan Bond	863 - 1117
Argyle	Jerry Doucet	648 - 2311
Barrington	Jack Fry	637 - 2075
Cape Breton	Joe MacEachern	564 - 5541
Chester	Barry Lenihan	275 - 3554
Clare	Delphis Comeau	769 - 2031
Colchester	Gordon Crewman	895 - 1501
Cumberland	[illegible]	667 - [illegible]
Digby	[illegible]	245 - 4777
Guysborough	[illegible]	533 - 3705
Halifax	[illegible]	477 - 5641
Hants, East	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hants, West	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inverness	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kings	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lunenburg	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pictou	[illegible]	[illegible]
Queens	[illegible]	[illegible]
Richmond	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shelburne	[illegible]	[illegible]
St. Mary's	[illegible]	[illegible]
Victoria	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yarmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]